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Title: Madam Speaker made Valedictory Reference on the conclusion of the 4th session of the 15th Lok Sabha.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Fourth Session of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha is coming to a close.

The first part of this Budget Session commenced on 22 February, 2010 with the Address of the hon. President to the Members of both the Houses assembled together in Central Hall. The House adjourned on 16 March, 2010 to enable the Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments and submit their Reports thereon. The second part of the Budget Session commenced on 15 April, 2010 after the recess.

During the Session, we had 32 sittings spread over approximately 137 hours. Of these, 15 sittings were held in the first part and 17 sittings were held in the second part of the Session.

The House discussed the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, a copy of which was laid on the Table of the House on 22 February, 2010. It was passed on 5 March, 2010 after a debate lasting for more than 12 hours and 31 minutes.

The Budget (Railways) and Budget (General) for the year 2010-2011, were presented on 24th and 26th February, 2010 respectively.

After a combined discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 2010-2011, Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2010-2011, Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2009-2010 and Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2007-2008, the demands were voted and the related Appropriation Bills were passed.

The Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2010-11 were discussed in the second half of the session on 19th April, 2010. The discussion lasted for 5 hours and 32 minutes. Cut motions moved were negatived and the Demands were voted and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The House also held a combined discussion on the Budget (General) for 2010-2011, Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2010-2011, the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2009-10 and Demand for Excess Grants (General) for 2007-08 lasting over 10 hours and 09 minutes. The Demands were voted and the related Appropriation Bills were passed.

During the second part of the Session, the Demands for Grants for 2010-2011, in respect of the Ministries of External Affairs, Rural Development and Tribal Affairs, were discussed for 17 hours and 27 minutes before being voted in full. All the other outstanding Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 2010-2011 of the remaining Ministries were submitted to the vote of the House and voted in full on 27th April, 2010 and the related Appropriation Bill was passed. For the First time in the History of Indian Parliament, Cut Motions on the demands, which were not discussed in the House and which were guillotined, were treated as moved and were negatived.

The House also discussed the Finance Bill, 2010 on 28 and 29 April, 2010. The discussion lasted for about 9 hours and 30 minutes before it was passed to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2010-11.

During the current Session, 27 Government Bills were introduced. In all, 21 Bills were passed, which included one Ordinance replacing Bill. Some of the important Bills passed were the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2010; the National Green Tribunal Bill, 2010; the Employees' State Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2009; the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2010; the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Bill, 2010; the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2010; the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2009; The Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Bill, 2010; the Land Ports Authority of India Bill, 2009; the Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill, 2010; and the Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010.

The House had debates lasting over 19 hours 31 minutes on matters of Public Importance under Rule 193 on (i) price rise; (ii) the Maoist attack on CRPF Personnel at Dantewada District of Chhattisgarh; and (iii) the need to lay down specific parameters for conducting the Census 2011. The concerned Ministers replied to the debates.

During the Session, two important matters were raised by way of Calling Attention, namely the (i) situation arising out of deplorable condition of working women, particularly the poor women workers in unorganized sector; and (ii) situation arising out of incident of radiation exposure due to Cobalt-60 in Delhi. In response to the Calling Attention, the concerned Ministers made a statement and also replied to the clarifications sought by the members.

As many as 57 statements were made by the Ministers on various other important subjects, including five statements by hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on Government Business.

Coming to the Private Members' Business, 45 Private Members' Bills were introduced during the Session. The Compulsory Voting Bill, 2009 seeking to provide for compulsory voting in an election by each and every eligible citizen of the country moved by Shri J.P. Agarwal on 4th December, 2009 during the last Session was further discussed on 5th March and 30th April, 2010. The Discussion on the Bill, however, did not conclude on 30th April, 2010.

A Private Member's Resolution regarding special economic development package for the eastern districts of the State of Uttar Pradesh moved by Rajkumari Ratna Singh on 11th December, 2009 during last Session was further discussed on 21st April, 2010 and received whole-hearted support from all sections of this House. However, at the end of debate, the Resolution was withdrawn by leave of the House. Another Resolution regarding identification of families living below poverty line and welfare measures for them was moved by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh on 21st April, 2010 and remained part-discussed on that day.

During the Session, 620 Starred Questions were listed, out of which 76 Questions could be answered orally. Thus, on an average, only about 2.37 Questions could be answered per day. Written replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with 7029 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

During this Session, the Departmentally Related Standing Committees presented 71 reports.

About 213 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the Members after the Question Hour and after completion of formal business of the House by sitting late in the evening. Hon. Members also raised 312 matters under rule 377.

In this Session, while we lost over 69 hours 51 minutes of time due to interruptions and forced adjournments, the House sat late for 19 hours and 38 minutes to compensate the time lost.

Hon. Members, it is a matter of great concern that the House did not function on many days due to frequent disruptions. During the second phase of the Budget Session the House could discuss Questions only on 9 days. Questions are central to ensuring executive accountability. Parliamentary democracy can survive only if the House functions. Frequent disruptions of the House will gradually render this institution irrelevant. A sense is growing in the country that Members of Parliament prefer to highlight public issues by disrupting the House. Thus in a fundamental sense the House is facing a serious dilemma. It pains me to see a large number of serious minded Members patiently waiting after giving notice and not being able to raise important issues because of adjournments of the House.

The other day a large number of differently-abled children came here to watch the proceedings of the House on my invitation. I could see the disappointment on their innocent faces because they could not watch the proceedings due to abrupt adjournment of the House. This House is the symbol and inheritor of the great Indian civilization and it represents the collective wisdom of the people. This House has to function and it should be allowed to function. I appeal to all sections of the House to find solutions to problems through democratic means.

Finally, I would like to thank the hon. Deputy-Speaker and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen for their co-operation in the smooth conduct of the House. I am extremely grateful to the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, the Chairperson of UPA, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Leaders and the Chief Whips of various Parties and Groups and the hon. Members for their co-operation. I would also like to thank, on behalf of all of you, our friends in the Press and the Media. I take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General and the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their dedicated and prompt service to the House. I also thank the allied agencies for their able assistance in the conduct of the proceedings of the House.

Hon. Members may now stand up as *Vande Mataram* would be played.

15.57 hrs

NATIONAL SONG

The National Song was played.

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

15.58 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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* Not recorded.

* â€¦* This part of the Speech was laid on the Table.

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

* Introduce with the recommendation of the President.

* Not recorded.

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.